



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### STUDY POSSIBLE NURSERY AREAS FOR STRIPED BASS

Surveys of possible spawning and nursery areas for striped bass along the Atlantic coast from New Jersey to southern New England are now in progress under supervision of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today was advised by Assistant Director Charles E. Jackson.

These observations, in charge of William C. Neville, assistant aquatic biologist of the Service, are being made to determine to what extent local reproduction in various regions contributes to the adult supply of striped bass. This determination appears essential, particularly since some restrictive legislation as sponsored by certain groups is based on the belief of some individuals that protection of adult fish within certain territorial waters will result in increased abundance in local areas through local successful spawning.

In this survey, the Service has had the cooperation of the Conservation Departments of several States, including New Jersey and Rhode Island, as well as numerous individuals including commercial and sports fishermen.

Observations on the striped bass run at Newport, Rhode Island, are also under way in cooperation with the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Game. Study of the striped bass fishery at that point on the coast is important since it represents a

region of major catches of adult fish which, at this time of the year, are en route on a fall migration to more southerly points along the coast. Comparison of the sizes and ages of the Newport catch are later made with similar data of catches of striped bass along the coast throughout the fall and winter, to determine the extent of availability and withdrawal of the same stock in different localities and by different gear.